

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR,
AND PENSIONS

The Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, August 23, 2018, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing entitled “Prioritizing Cures: Science and Stewardship at the National Institutes of Health”.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

The Committee on the Judiciary is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, August 23, 2018, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing on the following nominations: Ryan Douglas Nelson, of Idaho, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Ninth Circuit, Richard J. Sullivan, of New York, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Second Circuit, Gary Richard Brown, Diane Gujarati, Eric Ross Komitee, and Rachel P. Kovner, each to be a United States District Judge for the Eastern District of New York, Stephen R. Clark, Sr., to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Missouri, Lewis J. Liman, and Mary Kay Vyskocil, both to be a United States District Judge for the Southern District of New York, John M. O'Connor, to be United States District Judge for the Northern, Eastern and Western Districts of Oklahoma, John L. Sinatra, Jr., to be United States District Judge for the Western District of New York, Joshua Wolson, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, James W. Carroll, Jr., of Virginia, to be Director of National Drug Control Policy, and Ariana Fajardo Orshan, to be United States Attorney for the Southern District of Florida, Peter G. Strasser, to be United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Louisiana, and G. Zachary Terwilliger, to be United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia, all of the Department of Justice.

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. MERKLEY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that my intern, Amelia Ziegler, have privileges of the floor for the balance of the day.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

CENOTE ACT OF 2018

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 504, S. 2511, which had been reported from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, with an amendment to strike all after the enacting clause and insert in lieu thereof the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) **SHORT TITLE.**—This Act may be cited as the “Commercial Engagement Through Ocean Technology Act of 2018” or the “CENOTE Act of 2018”.

(b) **TABLE OF CONTENTS.**—The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

Sec. 2. Definitions.

Sec. 3. Coordination regarding assessment and acquisition by National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration of unmanned maritime systems.

Sec. 4. Regular assessment of unmanned maritime systems to support National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration missions.

Sec. 5. Acquisition of unmanned maritime systems.

Sec. 6. Reports on unmanned maritime systems and usage for mission of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

Sec. 7. Funding and additional authorities.

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) **ADMINISTRATION.**—The term “Administration” means the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

(2) **ADMINISTRATOR.**—The term “Administrator” means the Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere and Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

(3) **COOPERATIVE ACTIVITIES OF THE ADMINISTRATION.**—The terms “cooperative activities of the Administration” means cooperative activities between the Administration and an external entity, such as the Cooperative Institutes, Sea Grant Colleges, National Estuarine Research Reserves, the National Oceanographic Partnership Program established under chapter 665 of title 10, United States Code, and regional associations of the Integrated Ocean Observing System.

(4) **DATA SPECIFICATIONS.**—The term “data specifications” shall refer to the type, resolution, periodicity, and quality of data required by an program of the Administration.

(5) **TEST OR TRAINING RANGE.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The term “test or training range” means an area designated for operating unmanned maritime systems and other types of systems for the purpose of—

(i) evaluating the performance of such systems; or

(ii) training personnel on operating procedures for such systems.

(B) **INCLUSIONS.**—The term “test or training range” may include specialized fixed or portable instrumentation for the operation of unmanned maritime systems and other types of systems.

(6) **UNMANNED MARITIME SYSTEMS.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The term “unmanned maritime systems” means remotely operated or autonomous vehicles produced by the commercial sector—

(i) designed to travel in the air, on or under the ocean surface, on land, or any combination, and that function without an on-board human presence; and

(ii) that may include associated components such as control and communications, instrumentation, data transmission, and processing systems.

(B) **EXAMPLES.**—The term “unmanned maritime systems” includes the following:

(i) Unmanned undersea vehicles.

(ii) Unmanned surface vehicles.

(iii) Autonomous underwater vehicles.

(iv) Autonomous surface vehicles.

(C) **TREATMENT OF AERIAL VEHICLES.**—The term “unmanned maritime systems” includes unmanned aerial vehicles and autonomous aerial vehicles that are used to address maritime issues to the extent the Administrator determines it is necessary and appropriate to achieve the purposes of this Act.

SEC. 3. COORDINATION REGARDING ASSESSMENT AND ACQUISITION BY NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION OF UNMANNED MARITIME SYSTEMS.

(a) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—The Administrator shall direct the Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric

Research (in this Act referred to as “OAR”) and the Office of Marine and Aviation Operations (in this Act referred to as “OMAO”)—

(1) to coordinate the Administration’s research, assessment, and acquisition of unmanned maritime systems; and

(2) to consider the use of unmanned maritime systems in cooperative activities of the Administration.

(b) **COORDINATION WITHIN THE ADMINISTRATION.**—

(1) **AUTHORITY TO ESTABLISH COORDINATING COMMITTEE.**—The Administrator shall establish a coordinating committee to ensure that OAR and OMAO address requirements throughout the Administration.

(2) **INCLUDED.**—In establishing a coordinating committee under paragraph (1), the Administrator shall ensure that representation in the committee is included from the following:

(A) The Office of Ocean Exploration (OER).

(B) The program office of the Integrated Ocean Observing System.

(C) Such other offices of the Administration as the Administrator determines are actively engaged with unmanned maritime systems.

(3) **DESIGNATION.**—A coordinating committee established under paragraph (1) shall be known as the “Unmanned Maritime Systems Ocean Technology Coordinating Committee”.

(c) **COORDINATION WITH THE NAVY.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—In carrying out this Act, the Administrator shall—

(A) make efforts to coordinate with the Secretary of the Navy to leverage expertise in the development and operational transition of unmanned maritime systems;

(B) align with, utilize, and inform the Deputy Under Secretary of Commerce for Operations and the Oceanographer of the Navy’s strategic and operational priorities, particularly for missions and geography within the Administration’s purview;

(C) seek to utilize Naval unmanned systems test or training ranges, such as the Gulf of Mexico Unmanned Systems Test and Training Range of the Naval Meteorology and Oceanography Command, and maximize interagency cooperation and sharing of best practices; and

(D) to formalize coordination, execute a memorandum of understanding with the Secretary of the Navy that includes—

(i) incorporating consideration of priorities and requirements of the Administration into research and development activities conducted by the Secretary of the Navy;

(ii) consultation intended to encourage and facilitate efforts by the Administration to partner with the Navy to procure unmanned maritime systems and to establish, instrument, and operate test or training ranges and related facilities;

(iii) adopting procedures defined by the Secretary of the Navy for the Administration to access and utilize test or training ranges or related Naval facilities for purposes identified in paragraph (2)(B); and

(iv) such other topics as the Administrator considers necessary or advisable, including mapping, bathymetry, observations, and ocean exploration.

(2) **LOCATION.**—The Administrator shall, if practicable, carry out the activities authorized by this Act at a facility where the Navy and the Administration are co-located, for the following purposes:

(A) Gaining efficiencies through collaboration.

(B) Advancing development of unmanned maritime systems, including—

(i) systems research and development;

(ii) systems testing;

(iii) systems modifications; and

(iv) systems integration.

(C) Accelerating transition from concept to manufacturing and acquisition.

(d) **COORDINATION WITH OTHER FEDERAL AGENCIES.**—In carrying out this Act, the Administrator and the Secretary of the Navy may utilize the National Oceanographic Partnership